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Summary of UN/ESA paper on Economic and Social Implications of a possible ban on the use of fluorocarbons

The purpose of this paper is three-fold. The first is to explain, a priori, why we should expect, with growing global population and growing (albeit unevenly distributed) per capita income, abuse of specific environments such as the atmosphere. The second purpose is to examine the costs and benefits of continuing current fluorocarbon emissions (in the light of the scientific evidence to hand) and of banning fluorocarbon use in part or in whole. (A slightly unconventional cost/benefit approach will be advocated due to the global and, particularly long-term nature of the problem). The third part of the paper examines the merits of alternative forms of controlling CFM production and/or use, and the paper concludes with a discussion of the case for and against regulatory action.

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